BRAMBLE HILLS

PWSID # 0060016

Community Water System • Carroll County, Maryland

2009 Annual Water Quality Report

This is an annual report on the quality of water delivered by the Carroll County Bureau of Utilities, Department of Public Works. This report meets the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirement for "Consumer Confidence Reports" and contains information on the source of the water, its constituents, and the health risks associated with any contaminants. Safe water is vital to the community. Please read this report carefully and, if you have questions, call the Bureau of Utilities at 410-386-2164.

Bramble Hill 2009 Annual Water Quality Report

Bureau of Utilities
Department of Public Works
225 North Center Street, Room 218
Westminster, Maryland 21157

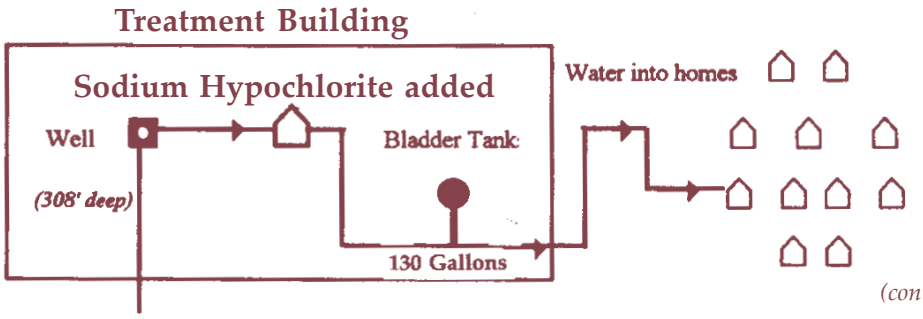
Overview

A new 4" PVC water main was installed in April 2007. The project also included an addition of a water meter for each residence. The work was completed and went into service on May 20, 2007.

Water Source

The Bramble Hills service area is supplied by groundwater pumped from a single well in the Ijamsville phyllite, located one-half mile south of Westminster in Carroll County.

Bramble Hills Treatment Process



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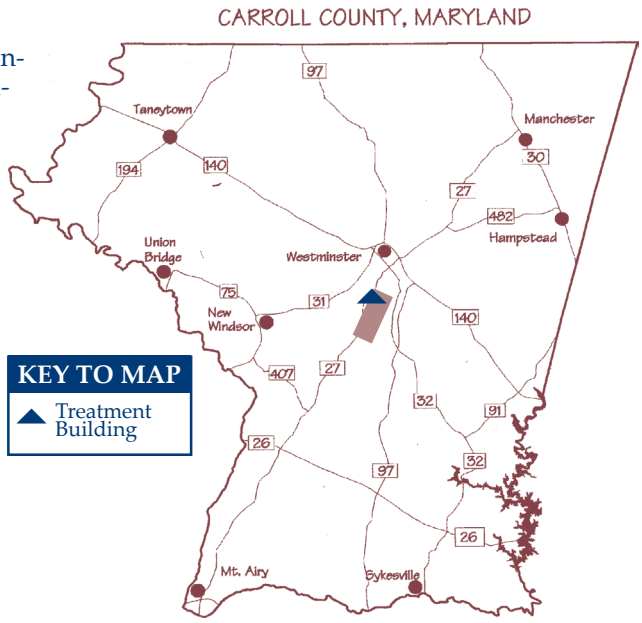
Important Health Information

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).



The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

(A) Microbial Contaminants, *such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.*

(B) Inorganic Contaminants, *such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.*

(C) Pesticides and Herbicides, *which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.*

(D) Organic Chemical Contaminants, *including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.*

(E) Radioactive Contaminants, *which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.*

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Radon Information

The Bureau of Utilities tested for Radon[1] in 2005. The water showed an average Radon level of 2,053 picocuries per liter (pCi/L). Radon is a radioactive gas that you can't see, taste, or smell. It is found throughout the United States and can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will, in most cases, be a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air in your home. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Fix your home if the level of radon in your air is four picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that aren't too costly. For additional information, call your State Radon program or call EPA's Radon Hotline (800–SOS-RADON).

Copper and Lead Information

On December 31, 2009, the Bureau of Utilities, Department of Public Works tested for Copper and Lead. Test results showed both copper and lead to be well below EPA's maximum contaminant level of 1.3 ppm for copper and 15 ppb for lead. (See Water Quality Table)

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Bureau of Utilities is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your drinking water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

An Explanation of the Water Quality Table

It's easy! The water is tested to assure that it is safe and healthy. The column marked "Detected Level" shows the highest test results during the year. "Major Sources" show where this substance usually originates. Footnotes explain important details. The State allows the county to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of the Bramble Hills data, though representative, is more than one year old.

Water Quality Table

Inorganic Contaminants	Date Tested	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level	Major Sources	Potential health effects from ingestion of water
Copper	12/31/09	AL=1.3ppm	1.3ppm	.97ppm	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives	Short term exposure: Gastrointestinal distress Long term exposure: Liver or Kidney damage
Lead	12/31/09	AL=15ppb	0	4ppb	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	Infants & children: Delays in physical or mental development, children could show slight deficits in attention span & learning abilities. Adults: Kidney problems & high blood pressure
Nitrate	10/15/09	10ppm	10ppm	1.0ppm	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits	Infants below the age of six months who drink water exceeding the MCL, could become seriously ill and if untreated could die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome

Synthetic Organic Contaminants (including pesticides & herbicides)	Date Tested	MCL	MCLG	Detected Level	Major Sources	Potential health effects from ingestion of water
Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	9/2/08	6ppb	0	.57ppb	Discharge from rubber and chemical factories	Reproductive difficulties; liver problems, increased risk of cancer

Radioactive Contaminants	Date Tested	MCL	MCLG	Detected	Major Sources	Potential health effects from ingestion of water
Gross Beta[2]	08/18/03	50pCi/L	0	3.0pCi/L	Decay of natural and man-made deposits	Increased risk of cancer
Gross Alpha	08/18/03	15pCi/L	0	1.0pCi/L	Erosion of natural deposits	Increased risk of cancer

Key to Table

MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level
ppb = parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (μg/L)
na = Not Applicable
pCi/L = picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
ppm = parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
[1]MCL regulation pending
[2] The EPA considers 50pCi/L to be the level of concern for Beta particles.

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Important Drinking Water Definitions

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology, and taking cost into consideration.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety, and are non-enforcable public health goals.

Detected Level: The highest level detected of a contaminant for comparison against the acceptance levels for each parameter. These levels could be the highest single measurement, or an average of values depending on the contaminant.

Range: The lowest to the highest values for all samples tested for each contaminant. If only one sample is tested, or no range is required for this report, then no range is listed for that contaminant in the table.

In 2009 two violations were received for bacteriologic reporting. Tests were performed as scheduled with no bacteria detected, however MDE did not receive the data by the required 10th day of the following month after testing. When data was received Bramble Hills was returned to compliance.

For additional information, contact Mr. Gregory Wantz, Water Treatment Plant Superintendent, Bureau of Utilities, Department of Public Works, at 410-386-2164; or consult our web site at ccgovernment.carr.org/ccg/util/default.asp. For further information, see U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) water information at www.epa.gov/safewater/ccr1.html, and www.waterdata.com.; or by calling EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

For billing information, call 410-386-2000, and for Operation and Maintenance inquiries, call 410-386-2164, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. An answering machine is available after hours.

The Board of Carroll County Commissioners meets regularly with Department staff. The Carroll County Commissioners' weekly agenda is available on the Internet at ccgovernment.carr.org/meetings/index.html or by calling the Commissioners' Office at 410-386-2043. The Carroll County Commissioners welcome and encourage public participation.

Member: American Water Works Association (AWWA)
Chesapeake Section of the American Water Works Association (CSAWWA)
Maryland Rural Water Association
Water Environment Federation (WEF)
Chesapeake Water Environment Association (CWEA)
Water and Waste Operators Association (WWOA)

American Water Works Association
The Authoritative Resource on Safe Water™

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